

LOOK TO THE STARS

Utah's Occupational Projections 2006-2016

The eminent economist, John Kenneth Galbraith, once said, "We have two classes of forecasters: Those who don't know . . . and those who don't know they don't know." I fall in the first category. Despite this fact, here at the Department of Workforce Services, we make an earnest effort to "project" current trends to help our customers (you) with career planning. We release these occupational projections every two years. Our recently released projections cover the years 2006 to 2016.

Instead of just throwing data at your brain, we have developed a system to help those making career decisions determine which jobs show the best employment outlook and the best wages. Be warned! This is not a perfect classification structure. But it does represent our best effort to make our information more user-friendly.

It's in the Stars

We've developed a rating system rather like those movie critics use—stars. These ratings are meant to provide guidance for those seeking high-demand/high-wage positions and are definitely not the final word on the desirability of a particular occupation.



Our “star” rating uses employment outlook and median annual wages. Employment outlook is based 90 percent on the projected number of total Utah job openings between 2006 and 2016 and 10 percent on how fast the occupation is expected to grow over that time period. Keep in mind that even one-star jobs will have openings. (My own occupation rates only two stars.)

It's All about Training

The star ratings are based on rankings within the four following training-level groups.

- Bachelor's Degree or Higher
- Associate Degree or After-High School Applied Technology Training
- Experience in the occupation or Long-Term On-the-Job Training (more than 12 months combined with classroom on-the-job training)
- Moderate/Short-Term On-the-Job Training (less than 12 months combined with potentially some classroom/on-the-job training)

Five-star occupations have the strongest employment outlook and high wages; one-star jobs have the poorest employment outlook and lowest wages, etc. Some occupations are “not rated” because of low employment levels or because they represent “residual” occupations—a grouping of similar occupations. Keep in mind that a five-star occupation in the on-the-job training groups will pay less than a five-star occupation requiring a college education.

Due to space constraints, we can't include the star ratings for the hundreds of occupations in Utah. However, that information and actual data are as close as a few clicks of an internet-connected mouse. (See the link below.) To whet your appetite, this article does include the best of the five-star jobs for each training category. ⓘ

- <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccinfo.do>

Keep in mind that a five-star occupation in the on-the-job training groups will pay less than a five-star occupation requiring a college education.

BEST OF THE FIVE STAR JOBS

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Chief Executives
Computer and Information Systems Managers
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software
Dentists, General
Financial Managers
Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary
Lawyers
Pharmacists
Sales Managers

Associate Degree or Postsecondary Technical

Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
Dental Hygienists
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians
Industrial Engineering Technicians
Medical Equipment Repairers
Occupational Therapist Assistants
Paralegals and Legal Assistants
Registered Nurses
Respiratory Therapists

Long-Term On-the-Job Training or Related Experience

Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators
Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers
Electricians
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades and
Extraction Workers; Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers; Non-
Retail Sales Workers; Production and Operating Workers
Industrial Production Managers
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing

Moderate or Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Advertising Sales Agents
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks
Correctional Officers and Jailers
Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment
Operators
Construction and Maintenance Painters
Pharmacy Technicians
Postal Service Mail Carriers
Roofers
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services